

The Romulus News

MARCH 8, 2002 – MARCH 21, 2002

"the little paper"

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 16

Timely Tidbits ...

Chamber Luncheon

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce invites members and guests to its next luncheon, set for 12 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, at the DoubleTree Hotel. Gerald Wendland, president of the Romulus Historical Society, will be the guest speaker for the event.

Advance tickets (\$12 for members; \$14 for nonmembers) are available by calling Barbara Snyder, the Chamber's executive secretary, at 734-326-4290. Deadline: March 14.

Math Night at Cory

Cory Elementary School families are invited to take part in the school's annual Math Night program, set for Friday, March 22, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The free program will feature a spectacular "star lab," measuring and estimating activities, and tangrams (Chinese puzzles consisting of a square cut into five triangles, a square, and a rhomboid, to be reassembled into different figures), as well as refreshments (hot dogs, chips, and a beverage) and a raffle.

"It's a priceless opportunity to spend quality time with your family," says Principal Phyllis Adkins. Call 734-532-1300 for info.

American Legion Forms Local Post

The first meeting of a new American Legion post in the Romulus area will meet in the squad room at the Romulus Police Department (11165 Olive Street in downtown Romulus) on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be to allow those in attendance to get acquainted with fellow veterans, discuss the American Legion and its many programs, and see how the organization fits into the community. An election of officers will be held, as well.

The meeting is expected to last about two hours. Light refreshments will be served afterward.

For more information, contact Don Moos (734-728-2515) or Gary Sammons (313-383-7727). □

Lady Eagles Win Double Volleyball Titles



Celebrating its 2002 Mega League Gold Division championship is Romulus High School's Lady Eagles varsity volleyball team (from left): front row – Lindsay Coughlin (Romulus Middle School student; manager), Rachel Broom, Deana Hunter, Latoya Staple, and Jennifer Hunter (RMS student; manager); middle row – Amy Thompson, Megan Hatcher, Carla Broom, Jennifer Kiesznowski, and Jennifer Ottenbreit; back row – Kristen Brooks, Kara Coughlin, Lauren Block, Andrea Gibson, Kristina Rafalski, Rick Coate (head coach), and Mike Hunter (assistant coach). *More photos on page 3.*

Congratulations to Romulus High School's Lady Eagles varsity and junior-varsity volleyball teams, both of which captured Mega League Gold Division championships this year. The Romulus teams had entered the final match of the season tied with opponent Dearborn Heights Crestwood for the league lead, but the large crowd present for "Parents Night" provided Romulus with plenty of support during more than three hours of tense play against Crestwood's varsity and JV teams.

First-year head coach Rick Coate was very proud of his varsity team's triumph.

"The final match was a real spirited contest, but our girls came through and picked it up when they had to," Coate said.

Although Romulus won the first game by a 15-12 margin, it lost the second game, 15-9, and trailed 5-2 in the third before scoring a truly amazing 13 points in a row to win the final game, 15-5, and finish the season with a Mega

continued on page 4

Students "Jump Rope for Heart"

When is the last time you played jump rope? If it's been a while, perhaps you should check out the "Jump Rope for Heart" program coming soon to Halecreek Elementary School.

Jump Rope for Heart is an event that was developed in 1978 by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Since that time, it has raised more than \$327 million for cardiovascular research and education.

The Romulus school district alone brings in over \$15,000 each year. Last year, Halecreek raised \$7,500.

"By participating in Jump Rope for Heart, the Romulus Community Schools and the City of Romulus send a message to our youth that health is important," stated Nancy Baziuk, physical-education teacher at Halecreek. "Students will learn that

good nutrition, physical activity, staying tobacco-free, and maintaining a healthy blood pressure and weight are all part of a healthy life-style."

On Thursday, March 14, students and parents from Halecreek will join Romulus police officers, firefighters, EMS workers, city and school officials, and senior citizens as they promote the idea that a healthy life-style can help prevent heart disease and stroke. The school invites community members to its gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (lunch break from 12 to 1 p.m.) to observe:

- how you, too, can participate;
- a community coming together to benefit the AHA; and
- youth making a difference by learning about their own lives while, at the same time, giving of their time, talents, and treasures to benefit others. □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. (Writers need not be afraid to include their name when asking for anonymity, since all such names are kept in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether or not the letter is published.)

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Seat Belt Stats Available

To the Romulus community:

This month, I received the "Safety Belt Use in Wayne County" report, completed by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. The report's information was obtained by the direct observation of safety-belt use in six communities: Romulus, Brownstown Township, Taylor, Livonia, Dearborn, and Detroit. All are communities that participate in the "Drive Michigan Safely" grant program.

The study reports that Romulus has the highest shoulder-belt usage of the six communities in the grant program, but all six fall below the state average of 82%. The report breaks down the use of safety belts in numerous categories. I have listed some of the significant figures below. If anyone is interested in further details, the study is available for review. (All figures refer to all of Wayne County, unless otherwise noted.)

Shoulder-belt Use by Community

• Brownstown Township	78.6%
• Dearborn	70.9%
• Detroit	66.9%
• Livonia	77.1%
• Romulus	79.3%
• Taylor	71.4%

Safety-belt Use by Sex

• Males	73.2%
• Females	78.3%

Safety-belt Use by Time of Day

• 7 to 9 a.m.	80.5%
• 9 to 11 a.m.	70.4%
• 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	74.4%
• 1 to 3 p.m.	76.0%
• 3 to 5 p.m.	76.0%
• 5 to 7 p.m.	67.2%

Safety-belt Use by Age

• Ages 4 to 15	85.1%
• Ages 16-29	70.7%
• Ages 30-59	77.3%
• Ages 60 and up	76.9%

The Romulus Police Department recently conducted a wave of seat-belt enforcement in the community. During the period between February 4 and February 17, 303 violations were issued for

failure to use a seat belt. The enforcement effort also resulted in the issuance of 134 citations for various other traffic violations.

I am requesting that all citizens of Romulus use their safety belts and child restraints as required by law. The safety of Romulus residents remains the department's number-one priority. The department will continue to conduct these enforcement waves; the next one is set to begin March 11.

The Romulus Police Department prefers to ask you to use your safety belt instead of having one of its officers issue you a citation.

E/Lt. James Rafalski
Romulus Police Department

Annual News from RHS

To the Romulus community:

The Romulus Historical Society participated in several community activities in 2001. In July, the Historical Museum was host to the 100th Bird Family Reunion. About 150 people toured the museum and enjoyed seeing the permanent displays as well as a number of Bird family heirlooms. In early December, the Society participated in the city's annual tree-lighting event at Historic Park. Over 100 Romulus residents, including Mayor Alan Lambert and other city officials, were present to welcome Santa, and caroling was enjoyed by all. Another activity in which the Society participated was the Romulus Animal Shelter's Santa Paws program, to which pet owners brought their pets to be photographed with Santa. The Society assisted with registration. Judy Widman, former president of the Romulus Historical Society, and her group, the Greyhound Society, also helped out.

At the January meeting of the Romulus Historical Society, officers for 2002 were elected. They are Gerald Wendland, president; Cathy Morse, vice-president; Gloria Chandler, treasurer; Genevieve Dugan, recording secretary; and Kenneth Krueger, corresponding secretary.

The Romulus Historical Society wants to extend a special thanks to Kathy Billings with the firm of Post, Smythe, Lutz and Ziel (Wayne, Michigan), for auditing its records. Ms. Billings files all of the federal and state forms for the group. The firm has been providing this service at no cost to the Society since its formation in 1979. Thank you, Kathy, for your expertise.

The Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Romulus Historical Museum on Hunt Street next to the post office. The meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Kenneth Krueger
corresponding secretary, RHS □

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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The Romulus News (also known as "the little paper") is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and *The Romulus News* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

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Volleyball Champs



Among those who enjoyed the recent Parents Night program were JV team members and parents (from left) John, Suzanne, and Tammy Nehila; Cindy and Jeff Hool; Rebecca and Nellie Oros; and Christie, Crystal, and Kenny Davis.



Other JV team members and parents at Parents Night included (from left) Judy and Lisa LeBlanc; Savannah Van Keuren; Evelyn Trojanowski; Anica, Linda, and Rick Coate; Ashley and Kelly Much; and Calli, Katie, and Tammy Hale.

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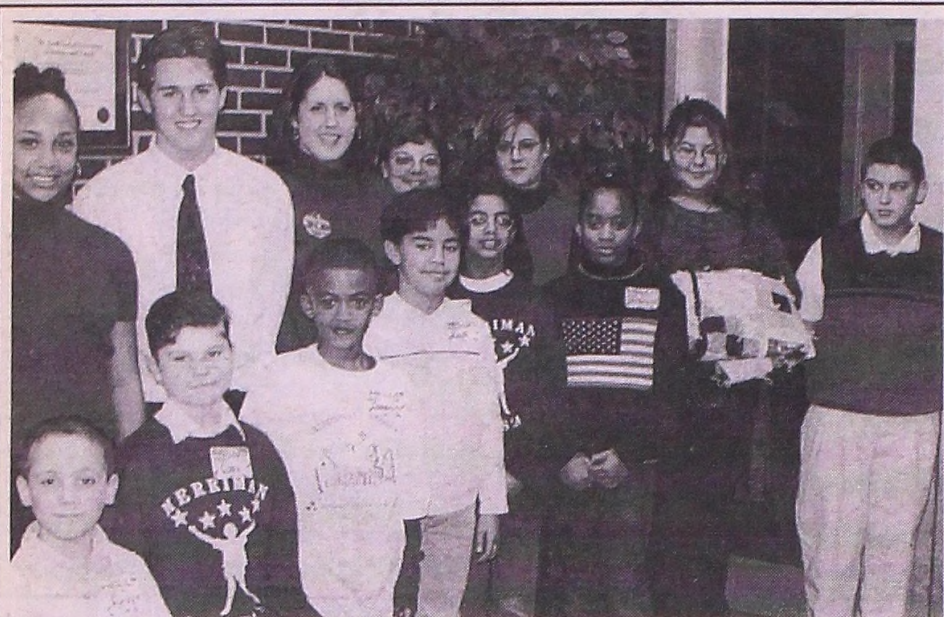
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SODA POP



Theodore Romak (parent; back, left) and Denise Brock (friend; front, second from right) congratulate the RHS JV volleyball team on an 11-1 season. Members include (from left): front row – Ashley Much, Lauren Romak, and Lisa LeBlanc; back row – Candice Howell, Christie Davis, Savannah VanKeuren, and Suzanne Nehila.

Social Studies Department Makes Annual Report to Board



Mary Blake, Linda Goulette, and Heather Doane (third, fourth, and fifth from the left, respectively, in the back row) – who teach the fifth, first, and third grade, respectively, at Merriman Elementary School – were on hand for the student-assisted Social Studies presentation recently given to the Romulus Board of Education. Student participants included (from left): front row – Rashid Siddiqui, Cody Deaton, Cameron Reaves, Zack Toilolo, Narjis Sheikh, and Kristen Avery; back row – Doloris Garry, Robert Rice, Gabrielle Flaischans, and Jonathan McLachlan.

The Romulus Community Schools' Social Studies Department made an impressive annual report to the Board of Education recently. Led by Charles Kidwell, the district's social-studies consultant; Shellie Moore, the elementary-level strand leader; Don Foley, the secondary strand leader; and Dan McCabe, department head for Romulus Middle School, the department gave a presentation that was heavily child-centered.

"Elementary students from 2000–2001 Michigan Golden Apple Award winner Merriman Elementary School explained each of the so-called Core Democratic Values that are taught in our schools," stated Dick Kruse, spokesperson for the district. "These fundamental principles and beliefs found in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and other significant documents include 'the common good,' 'individual rights,' 'popular sovereignty and justice,' 'truth,' 'life,' 'diversity and equality,' 'liberty,' 'the pursuit of happiness,' and 'patriotism.'"

Students from the district's secondary-level schools gave examples of some of their recent class projects. For instance, eighth-graders from McCabe's class actually develop their own government, elect officials, and conduct business on a fictional island. McCabe reported that this gives the students a real feel for civic duty, responsibility, and involvement.

The Social Studies Department concluded its presentation with an overview of the challenges presented by the social-studies portion of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and its upcoming emphasis on economics.

"Fewer than two percent of Michigan students exceed the state expectations in this difficult examination," Kruse explained. "Although social studies currently does not count on the MEAP scholarship tests and is not used in determining the winners of the state's Golden Apple Awards, the department leaders expect eventual inclusion in these areas," he concluded. □

Lady Eagles Win Double Volleyball Titles

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Gold record of 11-1.

The JV Lady Eagles, under the leadership of first-year head coach Brooke Hensman, had an equally difficult three-game match with their counterparts from Crestwood, winning the first and third games to finish with an 11-1 Mega Gold record.

Coate is also pleased with his team's

success off the courts.

"A majority of the girls are on the honor roll," he proudly explained.

The varsity team's success represents a major turnaround from a recent string of sub .500 seasons for Romulus. In fact, this is the first time that Romulus has won a league championship since 1984–86, when then-coach Gail Coleman led the Lady Eagles to three straight.

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Around the District



Romulus Middle School seventh-graders on the All-A Honor Roll included (from left): front row – Jessica Mills, Brittany Wright, and Kevin Stobbe; back row – Jennifer Dick, Aurielle McCauley, Nicole Carroll, Jessica Dick, Erika Wasson, and Jetaun Robinson.



Eighth-graders on the All-A Honor Roll at Romulus Middle School included (from left): front row – Jeanna Jendritz, Bradley Bills, and Ayibatari Burutolu; back row – Doloris Garry, Anne Ross, Megan Bearman, Ashley Wells, Carla Anderson, and Jonathan McLachlan.



Wick Elementary kindergartners who celebrated Black History Month with handmade Kufi hats and a rousing version of Che Che Koolay at a recent school assembly were (from left): front row – Cody Householder, Alena Collison, and Maria Holman; back row – Seth Bauer, Bianca Buckley, Brenna Wade, Christopher Greca, and Kennedie Brooks.



Students who made the Principal's Honor Roll at Cory Elementary last card marking included (from left): front – Valerie Crawford, Jonathon Stone, DaJuan Partee, Zachary Williams, and Briana Glenn; back row – Rodney Cofield, Kyle Sherwood, Melissa Cofield, Chelsea Earby, and Melissa Dufore.



Fourth-grade teachers Dawn Pluff and Cynthia Price at Cory Elementary had students present a play called "The Great Kapok Tree" as part of their language-arts unit. The story, about the importance of saving the Amazon rain forest, was told through the eyes of animals who live there. All students from the two classrooms took part in the event, either by acting or making props. A tape of the performance may air on cable at a later date.



Among the Romulus High School teachers who volunteered their time to make five playhouses for the Habitat for Humanity raffle were (from left): front row – Kathy Hurst and Lance Knudson; middle row – Marci Tomchick, Jill Avery, Christi Trombetta, Don Kobane, and Bill Barnes; back row – Florence Satterlee, Darrell Kenyon, Terry Bird, and Michael Hanson. Materials were donated by Wimsatt Building Materials of Wayne.

"Sweet Adelines" Chorus To Host Spaghetti Dinner Benefit



The County Connection Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, is made up of women from 13 cities in 5 Michigan counties. The group will host a Spaghetti Dinner Benefit on Saturday, March 16, to raise funds for their upcoming trip to perform in Washington, D.C.

The County Connection Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Benefit to raise money for an upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. The dinner will be held at the Belleville Trinity Episcopal Church (11575 Belleville Road, Belleville) from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 16.

The Chorus has been invited to represent the State of Michigan at the 2002 National Festival of States in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Jennifer Jones, chorus member and Belleville resident, said that the invitation to sing in Washington came prior to the events of last September.

"After seeing what our country has been through, I can't imagine a better way to represent Michigan than by singing in our nation's capital," she said.

County Connection – an Ypsilanti-based *a capella* show chorus – draws

membership from 13 cities in 5 Michigan counties. The chorus will be the only vocal group representing Michigan this year and will give 3 concerts while in the city.

"The chorus was selected based upon recommendations from state music officials and past achievements," explained Jones. "It competes annually in Cleveland, Ohio, and has taken first place in its division for the past two years, competing against choruses from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio."

County Connection will be providing entertainment throughout the evening of the Spaghetti Dinner Benefit.

Tickets (\$6 for adults/\$3 for children 12 and under) will be available at the door. For more information, please call 734-480-8843 or visit their Web site: www.sweetadelines.org. □

RHS Honors Students of the Month

A total of 46 Romulus High School students were recognized as January's "Students of the Month" for demonstrating excellence in behavior and academics. Students who attended a brief ceremony in their honor on February 13 were given a certificate of achievement and, thanks to local sponsors, a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

January "Students of the Month"

Kristen Atchley, Amanda Bassett, Jazmine Bennett, Christopher Berry, Brittany Bingham, Mariah Bogard-Deitz, Carla Broom, Antoine Burrell, Demarvelous Carter, Jenny Cornelius, Cortney Daniels, Janeise Daniels, Amber DeFrank, Julia Deshazor, Raquel Dodds, Lauryn Farkas, Alondra Femster, Adam Gibbons, Akita Gibson, Brittany Gregory, Imran Haq, Tiffany Henderson, Brandon Johnson, Amy Leffler, Jennifer LeWallen, Brian Longre, Andrea Marosan, Patrick McCollum, Alanae Odom, William Oros, Candace Parsons, Heather Patrick, Latoria Poole, John Schenavar, William Scott, Kristen Singer, Bridget Stephens, Melzina Thomp-

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21st Century Learning Centers Wind Up Spring Program Schedule



(From left) Henry Young, Brian Sharpley, and Wayne Lenard (instructor) have enjoyed "Juggling & Circus Acts" – one of the 21st Century Learning Center's latest fun-filled 10-week classes. For more information about this and other after-school programs, call 734-532-1755.

Pay Tribute with Nature's Greens

Sometimes Easter falls in March and sometimes it doesn't, but one holiday that you can always count on celebrating this month is St. Patrick's Day! Many people wear green or dress up as Leprechauns, but dolling up a vegetable that is naturally green – such as Chinese cabbage – can be good fun, too. The following recipe is reproduced with permission from *New Salads: Quick, Healthy Recipes from Japan* (Kodansha International) by Shinko Shimizu.

Chinese Cabbage, Apples, and Raisins with Vinaigrette

1/2 lb (200g) Chinese cabbage (tender leaf part)
1 apple (5 oz/150g)
pinch salt
3 T raisins
Sesame Seed Vinaigrette
2 T rice vinegar

4 T vegetable oil
1/4 t salt
1 T partially ground white sesame seeds

1. Wash the Chinese cabbage and cut it into 1-inch (3-cm) squares.

2. Cut the apple into very thin quarter-rounds and soak in lightly salted water. Drain and wrap in a towel to dry.

3. Wash the raisins, drain, and place them in a small, dry saucepan over high heat. Parch briefly. The raisins will soon soften. Warming them brings out their natural sweetness.

4. Combine the vinaigrette dressing ingredients and blend them well with a whisk or egg beater.

5. Combine the Chinese cabbage, apple, and raisins and toss well. Transfer to a serving dish and pour on the dressing. □

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Cory Students Ask "What If?"



Cory parent volunteers on hand for the presentation included (from left) Sheila Hunter, Sandra Groce, and Janice Barden.

Fifth- and sixth-grade students at Cory Elementary School recently presented "What If?" - a portrayal of what life would be like if there had been no African-American inventors. The play was organized by parent coordinator Rita Talley, paraprofessional Irene Sandusky, and parent volunteers Janice Barden, Sandra Groce, and Sheila Hunter.

This special production started out in a domestic setting, recognizing Sarah Boone and Jan Metzellinger for inventing (respectively) the ironing board and the shoe-lacing machine. Next were Walter Sammons and Lydia Newman, inventors of the comb and hairbrush. The section on personal-care inventions concluded with Madame C.J. Walker and her famous hair-care products.

The play then moved on to household conveniences such as the dustpan, mop, and clothes dryer invented by Lloyd Ray, Thomas Stewart, and George Samon. Also addressed were writing materials such as the pencil sharpener, fountain pen, and typewriter invented by John Love, William Purvis, and W.A.

Lovette. Concluding the household-conveniences section was a discussion of the lawn mower, invented by John Burr.

Next, the actors went to the store, but could not start the car because it lacked the automatic gearshift and supercharge system invented by Richard Spiles and Joseph Gammel. The travelers also witnessed accidents on the way to the store, since traffic signals - invented by Garret Morgan - didn't exist.

When they got home, the actors tried to put away their groceries, but found that there was no refrigerator (invented by John Standard). Covered next were heating and cooling systems invented by Alice Parker and Frederick Jones.

The final section of the play dealt with inventions such as the electric trolley, the mail box, and the postmarking/canceling machine invented by Alexander Miles, Phillip Downing, and William Berry. Also discussed were the light-bulb filament, a system for preserving/storing blood, and the open-heart surgery as invented/performed by Howard Latimer, Charles Drew, and Dr. Daniel Williams.



Students in the Cory play "What If?" included (from left): front row - Melissa Groce, Megan McCloud, and Emmanuel Sanders; back row - Kia Cunegin, Chelsea Earby, James Allen, Leilah Hunter, and Melissa Cofield.

Recreation News

Thanks to Herbert Buckley, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Deborah Justice, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation News" column.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) during its regular hours (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). For more information, stop in at the Center or call 734-942-6852.

Summer Softball

The Romulus Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for the ISA Summer Softball program, with play in the following divisions:

- **Mon./Wed. Men's White**
(8 teams/21 games/2 umpires; 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10 p.m. game times; limit of 6 home runs per team; \$575 per team);
- **Mon./Wed. Women's White**
(8 teams/14 games/1 umpire; 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10 p.m. game times; unlimited home runs; \$375 per team);
- **Fri. Men's Red/Competitive**
(8 teams/14 games/2 umpires; 6, 7:15, 8:30, and 9:45 p.m. game times; limit of 6 home runs per team; \$475 per team);
- **Fri. Men's Blue/Recreational**
(8 teams/14 games/2 umpires; 6, 7:15, 8:30, and 9:45 p.m. game times; limit of 3 home runs per team; \$475 per team);
- **Sun. Men's White/Doubleheaders**
(10 teams/18 games/2 umpires; 12, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, and 5:50 game times; limit of 6 home runs per team; \$500 per team); and
- **Thurs. Co-ed/Recreational**
(14 games/1 umpire; 6, 7:15, 8:50, and 10 p.m. game times; limit of 3 home runs per team for men/unlimited home runs for women; \$375 per team).

Romulus league classifications are as follows:

- red = B & C,
- white = C & D, and
- blue = D & below.

Deadline for registration is Friday, April 26.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Romulus Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt – open to Romulus residents ages 10 and under – will be held at Elmer Johnson Park on Saturday, March 30, at 12 p.m. (rain or shine). Egg hunts will be organized in four age groups:

- ages 3 and under,
- ages 4 and 5,
- ages 6 and 7, and
- ages 8 through 10.

First, second, third, and fourth prizes will be awarded in each of the four age divisions.

Note: Although there is no charge to participate in this program, children must bring their own basket or bag to hold the eggs they collect.

Men's Drop-in Basketball

A drop-in basketball program for Romulus men (proper I.D. required) continues at Romulus Middle School each Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 per evening.

Ceramics Classes

The Romulus Recreation Department's drop-in ceramics classes are held each Monday at 1 and 6 p.m. Cost is just \$1 per class for residents; \$1.50 per class for nonresidents.

Quilters Welcome!

The Romulus Recreation Department is inviting quilters and "quilter wannabes" of all skill levels to drop in at the Center on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. There is no charge to participate in these classes. □

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- peanut butter and jelly • canned goods of all kinds •

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Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Community Calendar

- **Shepherding a Child's Heart** – Do you find parenting to be challenging? Most of us do. But Reverend Marvin Hawbaker of Calvary Baptist Church (11338 Ozga Road, Romulus) says that the God who gave you children wrote the book on how to raise them! To find out more, attend the church's 15-week video series, called "Shepherding a Child's Heart," each Sunday at 6 p.m. beginning March 10. There is no charge or obligation involved. For further information, call the church at 734-941-0236 or visit its Web site: www.calvaryromulus.org. Questions may also be sent to the church's e-mail address: calvaryromulus@netzero.net.
- **Pistons Reward Donors with Freebies** – The Detroit Pistons and Starbucks Coffee Company are teaming up to collect new and gently used books at Detroit Pistons home games and at 46 participating metro-Detroit Starbucks locations during the month of March. Those who donate a book suitable for kids in grades K–12 will receive one buy-one/get-one-free voucher to any regular-season home game (subject to availability) and a free 16-ounce Starbucks beverage. For more information, call 248-371-2060.
- **Pasta Dinner/Bake Sale/Silent Auction Benefits Whitten** – A benefit mostaccioli dinner/bake sale/silent auction for Kim Whitten, a breast-cancer victim, will be held on Sunday, March 10, at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2550 Edsel Drive, Trenton, MI 48183) from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For tickets (\$8 for adults/\$3 for kids 4–10/free for kids 3 and under) or further information, call Pam D. (734-727-7351). Checks should be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church with a memo notation of "Whitten Family Benefit." Anyone who cannot attend the dinner, but would like to make a donation, may do so by mailing it to the church at the address above.
- **Romulus Democratic Club** – The Romulus Democratic Club will meet at the UAW Union Hall, Local #157 (29841 Van Born Road), at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18. Those who attend will have an opportunity to meet and greet various candidates and elected officials. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Jack H. Trumble, Club President, at 734-941-3513.
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The African American Experience Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting: March 20) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall). New members are welcome. For information about the club or its reading list, call Alfaye Woods or Diane Hazen at the Library (734-942-7589) during regular business hours (Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.).
- **Youtheatre Offers Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing Up on the Prairie** – Youtheatre's Movin' Up Club (for children age seven and over) will present *Growing Up on the Prairie* on Saturday, March 16 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, March 17 (2 p.m.), at the Millennium Centre (15600 J.L. Hudson Dr., Southfield). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$10 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. For more information, call 248-557-PLAY (7529).
- **Youtheatre Offers Ferdinand the Bull** – Youtheatre's Wiggle Club (for children age three and over) will present *Ferdinand the Bull* on Saturday, March 23 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, March 24 (2 p.m.), at the Millennium Centre (15600 J.L. Hudson Dr., Southfield). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$10 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. For more information, call 248-557-PLAY (7529).
- **St. Paul Hosts Special Services** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston) invites the public to attend the following special services featuring Holy Communion: **Maudy Thursday** (March 28, 7 p.m.), **Good Friday** (March 29, 1 and 7 p.m.), and **Easter Sunday** (March 31, 6:30 and 10 a.m.). For more information, call the Church (734-753-9048).
- **Travel Baseball Tryouts** – The WaCo Wolves USA summer travel baseball team (age 16 and under) of the Little Caesar's Amateur Baseball Federation will be holding tryouts at Bowen Field House (Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti). For tryout dates/times or other information, call 734-516-3723 or visit the team's Web site: <http://www.eteamz.com/WaCoWOLVESUSA>.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins downtown, please call 734-942-6852.)

Free Tax Preparation

Now through April 10, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons will be available (by appointment only) at the Romulus Senior Center to assist low- and moderate-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as those for homestead property taxes, home-heating credits, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be furnished at the time of registration.

March Luncheon Celebrates Spring, St. Patrick's Day, Easter

The Romulus Senior Center's next luncheon – to be held at noon on Monday, March 18 – will be a celebration of spring, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter, all rolled up into one spectacular afternoon! Highlights of the event will include a visit from nine bright fifth- and sixth-graders from Romulus Elementary School, who will be on hand to help and entertain under the supervision of teacher Salessica O'Flynn. Also featured will be a brief talk by a representative of Life Line, who will discuss the Center's upcoming stroke screening (set for 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 11) and then answer seniors' questions.

The menu for the event will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, meat balls, rolls, dessert, a beverage, and more – all for just \$5.50 per person! Sign up right away to give the friendly folks at the Center plenty of time for preparations.

Pizza Party

Betty Santo and the students at Romulus Middle School will host a pizza party for local seniors on Thursday, March 28, at the school. There is no cost to attend, but space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Black Jack (21) Lessons

Have you always wanted to learn to play black jack – or do you already know how, and want to play for fun? Stop in at the Romulus Senior Center's weekly Fun Night program (Wednesdays at 5 p.m.) to take part in this and other games.

Lunch with Sheriff Ficano

Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano will sponsor an informational breakfast at the Romulus Senior Center on Thursday, March 21, from 9 to 11 a.m. Although there is no charge to attend, registration is required to allow for adequate preparation.

Jump Rope for Heart

Local seniors are invited to take part in Halecreek Elementary School's upcoming Jump Rope for Heart program on Thursday, March 14, beginning at 9 a.m. Students will be jumping rope to benefit the American Heart Association, and could use your friendly support or even your help with twirling. Sign up at the Center now to support these students who are supporting a good cause.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- **Greektown Casino**
(March 19; \$15);
- **Bay Mills**
(April 1–2; \$119);
- **Da Untouchable Chicago**
(April 14–15; \$209 triple occupancy/\$219 double/\$269 single);
- **Lion King – Toronto**
(April 24–25; \$269); and
- **African Lion Safari**
(August 22; \$75 adult/\$60 child).

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, March 18, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable (\$5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

Blood Pressure/Foot Doctor

Get your blood pressure checked and/or your feet examined at the Center on Thursday, March 28, beginning at 10 a.m. Although there is no out-of-pocket cost, early registration is requested.

Club #1 Wants You!

The local senior group known as Club #1 meets at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m. Future meetings will include:

- March 12 (meeting, bag lunch, and stroke film);
- March 19 (meeting, pot luck, and bingo); and
- March 26 (Easter luncheon – leave Center at 12:30 p.m.).

New faces are always welcome. ☐

Congratulations!

Warren Wins Trip

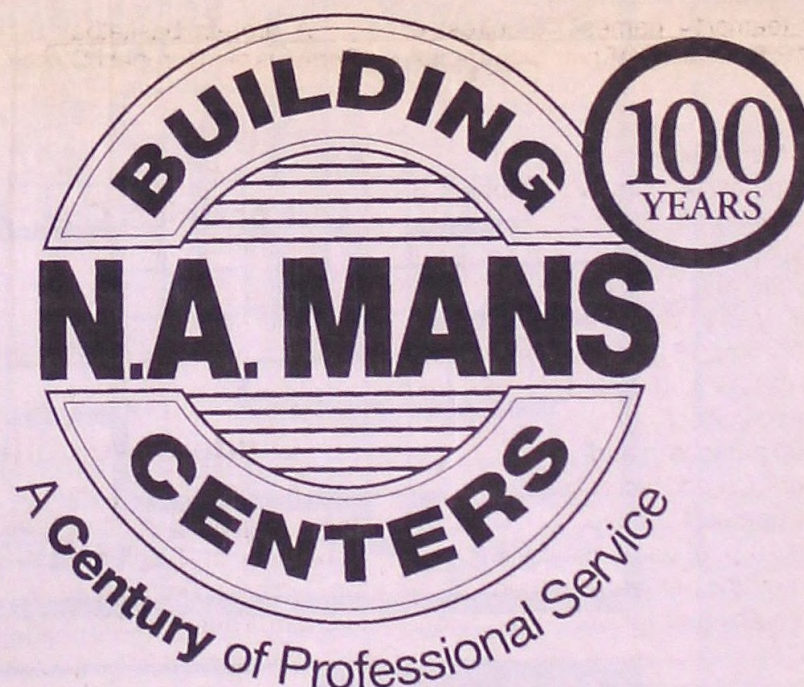
Congratulations to Oliver Warren, who was one of 11 people to win a pair of roundtrip airline tickets courtesy of Northwest Airlines. The giveaway was part of the Community Day celebration at Detroit Metro Airport's new McNamara Terminal.

Warren – who won tickets to Beijing, China – is a familiar face to many in Romulus. Besides working as the City's cable coordinator for 12 years before his retirement, he was also a member of the Mayor's Drug Task Force, Youth Assistance Program, and Romulus Housing Commission.



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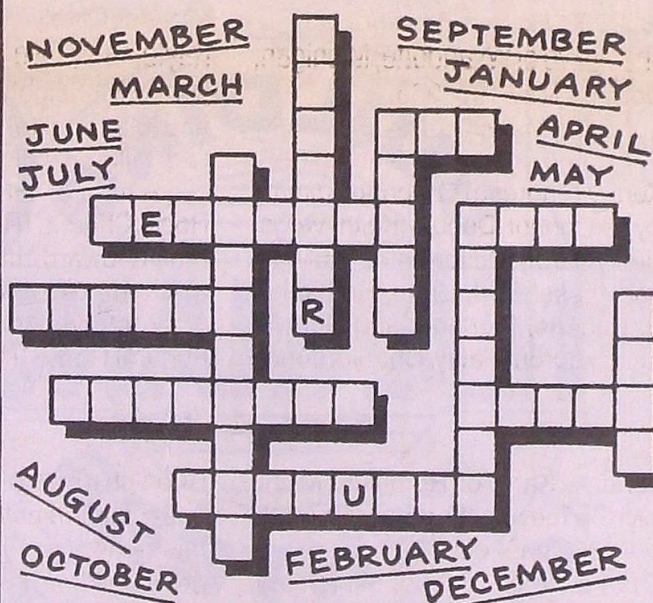
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Going for the green

What do you know about St. Patrick's Day? Here are some interesting facts.

- St. Patrick's Day, set aside to honor St. Patrick, was not his birthday; it was the day of his death.

- Besides being a religious holiday, St. Patrick's Day came to be thought of as the "arrival of spring." Cattle were led to pastures, and Irish farmers planted grain.

- In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day often features the old Gaelic sport of *hurling*. (It is something like our field hockey.)

- This day's symbol is a green shamrock. It looks like a clover, with three small leaves, and is called a *trefoil*.

- There is a town in Florida named *Shamrock*. Every year people send letters and cards there to be postmarked.

- What is a "Shillelagh"? It is an Irish symbol (and word) for a short, fat, oak club.

- Why picture an Irishman wearing a top hat and swinging a cane?

Irish countrymen used to wear a jaunty hat with a high crown, and white socks below tight knee britches.

- Below are some Irish-American traditional dishes:

- 1) Corned beef and cabbage;

- 2) Irish stew;

- 3) Irish soda bread;

- 4) Mulligatawny soup;

- 5) Mashed potatoes with shredded cabbage (Colcannon).

- The "leprechaun" legends are fascinating.

Most leprechauns are said to be rich and have bad tempers. They don't want to live near humans, but if you happen to capture one — don't let him out of your sight.

Why not? As a ransom, he might tell you where his "pot of gold" is buried.

Of course it's all in fun — so make a fun day of it! Happy St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick's Day Scramble

1. MAORKSHC
2. ENRGE
3. EPPI
4. REPAAD
5. ALEDNRI
6. KAESSN



1. Shamrock 2. Green 3. Pipe 4. Parade 5. Ireland
6. Snakes

Answers

K3930005

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
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Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
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City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

The Stork Arrived

Kaitlyn Nicole Henich

Proudly announcing the birth of their new daughter, Kaitlyn Nicole Henich, are Robert and Stacey Henich of Romulus, Michigan.

Kaitlyn was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 25, 2002, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces, and measuring 20 1/2 inches.

Especially excited about the new arrival were big brothers Michael (age 8) and Ryan (age 6).

Kaitlyn's paternal grandparents are Robert R. Henich (New Hudson, MI) and Joyce Tagg (Romulus). Bernard and Barbara Shellman (Romulus) are her maternal grandparents. □



Kaitlyn Nicole Henich

Obituaries

Marvin Lynwood Holton

Marvin Lynwood Holton of Romulus, Michigan, died on Thursday, February 28, 2002. He was 65 years old.

The native of Wyandotte, Michigan, was born on May 19, 1936.

Surviving Marvin are his wife, Patsy Marie Holton; five children, Diane O'Conner, Kenny (Theresa) O'Conner, Jimmy (Marcy) O'Connor, Debbie (Keith) Varga, and Jeff (Carol) Holton; nine siblings, Wilson, Hessel, Ted, Ernie, Ruthanne, Violet, Eugene, Marlene, and Ronald; 17 grandchildren, Patsy, Charlie, Jenni-

fer, Kenny, Trish, Tommy, Kristina, Jessica, Junior, Donette, Sarah, Alicia, Michael, Carolyn, Steffanie, Melissa, and Kayle; and five great-grandchildren, Nancy, Christopher, Matthew, Chelsey, and Mariah. He was predeceased by two children, Olin and Carolyn.

A funeral service was held at Livin Rock Church (Romulus), with Pastor Frank Howard officiating. Interment was at Cherry Grove Cemetery (Clare, MI).

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Irene A. Karst

Irene A. Karst of Romulus, Michigan, died on Tuesday, February 19, 2002. She was 86 years old.

The native of Lastrup, Minnesota, was born on April 9, 1915.

Among those surviving Irene are a daughter, Eileen Dombrowski; a son,

Rudolph Karst; three sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Palmershelm, Mrs. Caroline Ligan, and Mrs. Esther (Jack) Buhr; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Those who predeceased her included husband Rudolph, four brothers, and two sisters.

A funeral mass was held at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), with Father Festus Ejimadu officiating. Interment was at St. Hedwig Catholic Cemetery (Dearborn Heights, MI).

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). □



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